

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 MC-02 AID-05 OMB-01 OPR-02 USPS-01 OC-05

CCO-00 /089 W

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R 041354Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 235

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

DIRNSA WASHDC

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

CINCUSNAVEUR

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 6028

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR MOPS TU

SUBJ: US-TURKISH NEGOTIATIONS; US MILITARY CUSTOMS DIFFICULTIES;
PRIVILEGES FOR US FORCES IN TURKEY

1. EMBOFF (DCM) CALLED AT HIS REQUEST ON MFA DIRGEN INTER-
NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS YAVUZALP MORNING AUGUST 4. EMBOFF
OPENED BY REFERRING TO PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL'S STATEMENT IN
SATURDAY AUGUST 2 PRESS CONFERENCE TO EFFECT THAT US-TURKISH
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DEFENSE COOPERATION NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT BE RESUMED UNTIL

AFTER RPT AFTER LIFTING OF EMBARGO. EMBOFF INQUIRED WHETHER THIS STATEMENT REFLECTED A GOVERNMENTAL DIRECTIVE. YAVUZALP REPLIED HE HAD READ PRIMIN'S STATEMENT IN NEWSPAPERS, JUST AS EMBASSY HAD, BUT HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL WORD FROM THE PRIMIN'S OFFICE.

2. EMBOFF THEN LISTED MAJOR AREAS WHERE US FORCES EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES, DESPITE GOT ASSURANCE THAT NATO/SOFA REMAINED IN EFFECT. AREAS INCLUDED:

A. DENIAL OF DELIVERY OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS INBOUND AND WITHHOLDING OF PERMISSION TO PACK AND SHIP HOUSEHOLD GOODS OUTBOUND.

B. REFUSAL TO CLEAR INCOMING PRIVATELY-OWNED VEHICLES (POV'S) WHICH BEING HELD AT PORTS AND REFUSAL TO REGISTER AND LICENSE POV'S WHICH HAD CLEARED CUSTOMS BUT HAD NOT YET BEEN LICENSED.

C. PROHIBITING C-130 AIRCRAFT AT VARIOUS AIRPORTS FROM OFFLOADING CARGO DESTINED TO SUPPLY US FORCES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.

D. DENIAL OF US ACCESS TO MILITARY SIDE OF ANKARA'S ESENBAGA AIRPORT WHERE U.S. MILITARY RESUPPLY AIRCRAFT PARK AND OFFLOAD.

E. IMPOUNDING OF J-4 AIRCRAFT FUEL DESTINED FOR US IN US MILITARY FLIGHT OPERATIONS AT INCIRLIK (YAVUZALP WINCED WHEN HE HEARD OF THIS).

3. YAVUZALP SAID ALL OF THESE CASES WERE CLEARLY COVERED BY NATO/SOFA AND WERE OBVIOUSLY THE RESULT OF "MISUNDERSTANDINGS." IT WAS GOT'S INTENTION TO GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ESTABLISHED BY NATO/SOFA AGREEMENT INTERPRETED AS BROADLY AS POSSIBLE. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE ADDED, HE BELIEVED THERE WAS GOOD CHANCE THAT DEPENDENTS WOULD BE GIVEN THOSE NATO/SOFA PRIVILEGES NOT SPECIFICALLY BESTOWED ON THEM BY THE AGREEMENT AND A REASONABLE CHANCE THAT SUCH PRIVILEGES WOULD BE EXTENDED TO CIVILIAN CONTRACT COMPONENTS.

4. YAVUZALP SAID THAT THE INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE WAS STILL HARD AT WORK IN PREPARING A DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD COVER CUSTOMS AND OTHER PROCEDURES FOR US OPERATIONS DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. HE HOPED THE DOCUMENT WOULD BE COMPLETED "WITHIN A FEW DAYS". AT THAT
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TIME HIS DEPUTY, ASULA, WOULD SUMMON EMBASSY'S MSA COUNSELOR TO RECEIVE IT.

5. EMBOFF THEN MADE LENGTHY PRESENTATION REGARDING BX AND APO PRIVILEGES. HE SAID THAT IN THIS PART OF HIS PRESENTATION HE WANTED TO MOVE BEYOND LEGAL QUESTIONS AND ENCOMPASS MORALE AND POLITICAL FACTORS. HE POINTED OUT THAT AMERICAN

COMMUNITY IN TURKEY HAD BEEN ONE OF STRONGEST SUPPORTERS OF CONTINUING ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS (MANY HAD WRITTEN THEIR CONGRESSMEN) TO ACHIEVE LIFTING OF EMBARGO AND RESTORATION OF A MUTUALLY USEFUL MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. SHOULD THIS GROUP BE DENIED FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGES CONSIDERED NORMAL FOR US MILITARY (AND HERE EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT US ARMED FORCES WERE VOLUNTARY), THEY WOULD FEEL THAT GOT IS TAKING PERSONAL VINDICTIVE REPRISALS AGAINST THEM, WHICH SERVED NO USEFUL PURPOSE AND ONLY PENALIZED PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN ON THE TURKS SIDE. THIS COULD ONLY HAVE EFFECT OF LOWERING THEIR MORALE AND COULD RESULT IN A LARGE NUMBER OF NEGATIVE LETTERS TO CONGRESSMEN AND OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS IN THE US.

6. YAVUZALP ASKED THAT HIS REMARKS WHICH FOLLOWED BE TAKEN AS PERSONAL AND "OFF THE RECORD". HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE GOT WOULD PERMIT THE BX'S TO REMAIN IN OPERATION WITHIN THE COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS(CDI'S) TO PROVIDE THE USUAL AMENITIES FOR US PERSONNEL SERVING ON THE CDI'S. GOT MIGHT ASK, HE ADDED, THAT SALE OF HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS IN BX'S BE SUSPENDED.

7. YAVUZALP WENT ON TO SAY THAT BALGAT (SERVING ANKARA) WAS NOT RPT NOT A CDI AND THAT BX OPERATIONS THERE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE SUSPENDED. EMBOFF TOOK ISSUE WITH THIS AND AGAIN STRESSED MORALE AND POLITICAL FACTORS HE HAD MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY. YAVUZALP SAID HE SIMPLY DID NOT THINK GOT WOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE TO ALLOW CONTINUATION OF BX OPERATIONS AT A NON-CDI WHERE ACCESS WAS FREELY GIVEN TO AMERICAN COMMUNITY, AND AT A LOCATION SO HIGHLY VISIBLE IN ANKARA.

8. ON THE APO, YAVUZALP SAID THIS WAS AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT QUESTION BECAUSE IT WAS NOT COVERED BY AN AGREEMENT, AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

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TURKISH POSTAL AUTHORITIES CONSIDERED IT A VIOLATION OF THE LAW WHICH GAVE THE PTT A MONOPOLY ON POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS. HE SAID THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD BEEN RESISTING PRESSURE FOR YEARS FROM OTHER GOT ELEMENTS TO SHUT DOWN THE APO. HE HAD HOPES THAT PERHAPS SOMETHING COULD BE WORKED OUT WHEREBY LETTER MAIL WOULD CONTINUE TO FLOW IN BOTH DIRECTIONS BUT THAT PARCEL POST WOULD BE SUSPENDED. EMBOFF AGAIN STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF FULL APO SERVICE TO MORALE OF US FORCES. HE URGED THAT IF GOT DID SUSPEND PARCEL POST OPERATIONS, AT LEAST A DATE FAR ENOUGH IN ADVANCE SHOULD BE FIXED FOR THE SUSPENSION SO THAT PEOPLE WOULD NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT PACKAGES IN THE PIPELINE GOING UNDELIVERED. YAVUZALP SEEMED TO THINK THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA AND SAID PERHAPS A FORWARD DATE OF AS MUCH AS A MONTH OR SO COULD BE SET.

9. YAVUZALP SAID THE FOREIGN OFFICE WAS FIGHTING A DIFFICULT
BATTLE AGAINST ELEMENTS WITHIN THE GOT, LED BY TURKISH RADIO
AND TELEVISION, WHO WISH TO TERMINATE ARMED FORCES RADIO BROADCASTS.

10. ANOTHER AREA WHERE THE FOREIGN OFFICE WAS

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 236

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

DIRNSA WASHDC

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

CINCUSNAVEUR

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IMZIR

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EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY FROM OTHER MINISTRIES WAS
THE MAINTENANCE OF DEPENDENT SCHOOLS. THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH
SCHOOLS WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH STANDING TURKISH LEGISLATION AND,

YAVUZALP ADDED, THE FONOFF HAD "STRETCHED THE 1947 AGREEMENT" TO KEEP THEM OPERATING. HE INDICATED THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE WOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO PERSUADE OTHER ELEMENTS IN THE GOT TO KEEP THE SCHOOLS GOING.

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11. UPON RETURNING TO THE EMBASSY AND AFTER BRIEFING THE AMBASSADOR, EMBOFF, ON AMBASSADOR'S INSTRUCTION, TELEPHONED YAVUZALP TO MAKE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS RE BALGAT INSTALLATION:

A. WHILE GOT TOOK POSITION THAT BALGAT WAS NOT A CDI, THE ACTUAL FACT WAS THAT BALGAT WAS A LOGISTICS HEADQUARTERS FOR BOTH CDI'S AND SAS SITES AND WAS CHARGED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THESE INSTALLATIONS AND NATO OPERATIONS WITHIN TURKEY.

B. EMBOFF REITERATED POINT THAT SUSPENSION OF FACILITIES AT BALGAT WOULD BE VIEWED AS A REPRISAL AGAINST THOSE WHO WERE TURKEY'S FRIENDS. HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE VIEWED AS A PETTY AND VINDICTIVE ACT ON THE PART OF THE GOT. HE NOTED PRIMIN'S STATEMENT THAT WITHIN A MATTER OF WEEKS EITHER THE EMBARGO WOULD BE LIFTED AND WE WOULD BE RENEGOTIATING, IN A SUITABLE ATMOSPHERE, NEW DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS, OR, IF THE EMBARGO WERE NOT LIFTED GOT WOULD PROBABLY BE TAKING STEPS TO LIQUIDATE THE AMERICAN PRESENCE. EMBOFF THEREFORE URGED THAT THE GOT NOT RPT NOT TAKE SUCH AN UNHELPFUL STEP AS SUSPENSION OF FACILITIES AT BALGAT DURING THE WEEKS THAT LAY AHEAD.

12. YAVUZALP REPLIED THAT THE TWO POINTS EMBOFF HAD MADE WITH HIM CREATED CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY. FIRST OF ALL, THE GOT HAD NEVER ACCEPTED THE US CONTENTION THAT BALGAT WAS A CDI NOR DID IT ACCEPT THE VIEW THAT IT WAS A HEADQUARTERS SERVING THE CDI'S AND THE SAS SITES. HE SAID HE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE TURKISH ACTION WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A REPRISAL. IT WAS SIMPLY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PUBLICLY MADE DECISION BY THE GOT. HE REPEATED HIS ASSURANCE THAT THE GOT WOULD CONTINUE TO EXTEND ALL THE PRIVILEGES COVERED IN THE NATO/SOFA AGREEMENT, INTERPRETED AS GENEROUSLY AS POSSIBLE. HE DID NOT THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOT COULD GO ABOVE THAT. NEVERTHELESS, CONCLUDED YAVUZALP, HE WOULD TAKE NOTE OF THESE TWO IMPORTANT POINTS AND WOULD COMMUNICATE THEM TO THE APPROPRIATE TURKISH AUTHORITIES.

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